

Lovono language

Lovono (*Vano*, *Alavano*, *Alavana*) is a nearly extinct language of the island of Vanikoro in the easternmost province of the Solomon Islands. As of 2012, it is only spoken by four speakers;^[1] it has been replaced by the island’s dominant language, Teanu.

Contents

Name

The language

Notes

References

External links

Name



Map of Vanikoro I., showing the historical territories of the three tribes of Lovono, Tanema and Teanu.^[3]

The language name makes reference to an ancient village in the northwest of the island Banie.^[4] In the language Lovono, which was once the dominant one in that area, the village was called *Alavana*. In Teanu, which is now the only language spoken by the modern population, the same village is called *Lovono*. This language shift is reflected in the people’s preference to use the Teanu form (i.e. **Lovono**) both for the village name and for the ancient language that used to be associated with it.

The same village – and hence the language – has been also spelled *Whanou* or *Vano* in the scientific literature, possibly reflecting an older pronunciation of the word.

The language

Some information on Lovono, as well as on the other languages of the island, can be found in François (2009).

Notes

1. Homepage of the linguist A. François (<http://alex.francois.free.fr/AF-field.htm#Solomons>) (LACITO-CNRS).

Lovono	
<i>Alavana</i>	
Native to	Solomon Islands
Region	Vanikoro
Native speakers	4 (2012) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Austronesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Malayo-Polynesian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Oceanic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Temotu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Utupua–Vanikoro<ul style="list-style-type: none">Vanikoro<ul style="list-style-type: none">Lovono</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	vnk
Glottolog	vano1237 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/vano1237) ^[2]

2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Lovono" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/vano1237>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Source: [Maps of Vanikoro \(languages, place names\)](http://alex.francois.online.fr/AF-maps-Vanikoro.htm#a) (<http://alex.francois.online.fr/AF-maps-Vanikoro.htm#a>).
4. François (2009).

References

- François, Alexandre (2009), "The languages of Vanikoro: Three lexicons and one grammar" (http://alex.francois.online.fr/data/AlexFrancois_2009_Vanikoro-languages.pdf) (PDF), in Evans, Bethwyn (ed.), *Discovering history through language: Papers in honour of Malcolm Ross*, Pacific Linguistics 605, Canberra: Australian National University, pp. 103–126

External links

- [Audio recordings in the Lovono language](https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/corpus/list_rsc_en.php?lg=Lovono) (https://pangloss.cnrs.fr/corpus/list_rsc_en.php?lg=Lovono), in open access, by A. François (source: *Pangloss Collection* of CNRS).

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